

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 299 - SB 893

March 6, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands the list of students eligible for open enrollment in charter schools to include students who have been in state custody for at least one year after reaching 14 years of age, in state custody for at least one year after reaching 14 years of age and placed for adoption with the Department of Children's Services (DCS) or an adoption contract agency, or in state custody for at least one year after reaching 14 years of age and placed in permanent state custody.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

Other Fiscal Impact – More students not eligible under current guidelines will be eligible to transfer into a public charter school. BEP funds may shift from local education agencies or the Department of Children's Services, dependent upon where foster children currently attend school, the number of students enrolling, the capacity of the charter school, and the number of open enrollment slots.


Assumptions:

- No impact on BEP formula. DCS education facilities are funded entirely by the state. If a foster child transfers to a charter school from a DCS run school, then the LEA where the charter school is located may incur an increase in their BEP local matching funds as a result of a new student transferring into the system. The number of transferring students is estimated to be small, therefore any increase in local expenditures is estimated to be not significant.
- No impact on the current charter school eligibility requirements.
- Making more students eligible to attend charter schools will not increase the number of available slots in charter schools.
- Approximately 3,041 students will be eligible for enrollment in a public K-12 charter school.

- Currently there are 11 charter schools serving grades 6-12 that a student 14 years of age would be eligible to attend for at least one year. Five of these charter schools serve up to grade 8.
- All charter schools are currently at capacity. Any shift in funding will be a result of new slots becoming available. It is unknown how many available slots there will be for the 2010-2011 school year or subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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